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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/863,456	05/22/2001	William S. Greene	RIC-99-010	1245

25537 7590 02/23/2004

WORLD COM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

COURTENAY III, ST JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2126

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,456

Applicant(s)

GREENE ET AL.

Examiner

St. John Courtenay III

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-62 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.


ST. JOHN COURTENAY III
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Detailed Action

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1- 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Addesso et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,019,961).

As per independent claims 1 & 6:

Addesso teaches, in a computing environment, a method for implementing an association "among" [see claim 1] or "between" [see claim 6] a first data object and a second data object comprising the steps of:

- forming a first association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the first data object [e.g., see "association fragment" and associated discussion with respect to a first object, col. 18, lines 29-41]; and
- forming a second association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the second data objects, wherein the first association fragment and second association fragment cooperate to cause an association to be effectively formed between the first data object and the second data object [e.g., see "association fragment" and associated discussion with respect to a first object and the relationship and role with respect to a second object, col. 18, lines 29-41].

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As per dependent claim 2:

Addesso teaches the first association part and second association part are maintained in the computing environment as data objects apart from , and in like manner as peers to, the first data object and the second data object [e.g., see "association fragment" and associated discussion with respect to a first object and the relationship and role with respect to a second object, col. 18, lines 29-41].

As per dependent claims 3 & 4:

Addesso inherently teaches the use of objects in separate processing environments or data stores, as claimed, as computer processor 12 communicates with database 22, and also the use of a plurality of workstations 18 [see col. 5, lines 1-26].

As per dependent claim 5:

Addesso teaches maintaining the respective association fragments in substantial proximity to their respective data objects, as claimed [e.g., see "association fragment" and associated discussion with respect to a first object and the relationship and role with respect to a second object, col. 18, lines 29-41].

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 7-62 appear to be allowable over the prior art of record, subject to the results of a final search.

Prior Art not relied upon:

Please refer to the references listed on the attached PTO-892 which are not relied upon in the claim rejections detailed above.

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How to Contact the Examiner:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to

St. John Courtenay III whose voice telephone number is **(703) 308-5217**. A voice mail service is also available at this number. Normal Flex work schedule: M – F 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

- **All responses sent by U.S. Mail should be mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Patent Customers advised to FAX communications to the USPTO

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/faxnotice.pdf>

Effective Oct. 15, 2003, ALL patent application correspondence transmitted by FAX must be directed to the new PTO central FAX number:


**NEW PTO CENTRAL FAX NUMBER:
703-872-9306**

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- Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **TC 2100 Group receptionist: (703) 305-3900.**

Please direct inquiries regarding fees, paper matching, and other issues not involving the Examiner to:

Technical Center 2100 CUSTOMER SERVICE: 703 306-5631

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) is available online at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html>


ST. JOHN COURTENAY III
PRIMARY EXAMINER

First Office Action, Paper #7